

PLAIN TOWNSHIP NEWS



ISSUE 1

SPRING 2010



Louis P. Giavasis, Trustee
Scott M. Haws, Trustee
Albert P Leno II, Trustee
Claude W. Shriver II, Fiscal Officer

Township Meetings

Board of Trustees

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
of the month - 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Wednesday
of the month - 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Commission

Wednesday in 2nd full week
of the month - 6:00 p.m.

**IF YOUR FAMILY IS
INTERESTED IN
RECEIVING EMAIL
NOTICES FOR FUTURE
TOWNSHIP-WIDE
EVENTS, PLEASE
SEND AN EMAIL TO
US AT**

general@plaintownship.com

A Message from the Board of Trustees

As many Plain Township residents are aware, there is an incorporation issue on the ballot for the primary election on May 4, 2010, on which only effected precincts will be permitted to vote. This issue will present to voters the issue of incorporating Plain Township into the "City of Plain".

Following the election on the issue of incorporation, if the proposition for incorporation fails, the incorporation proceedings will come to an immediate halt and no further petitions for incorporation may be filed for at least three years after the date of the election. If the election results in incorporation, the costs of the election would be charged to the "City of Plain".

If the incorporation issue passes and is held to be valid, there would then need to be an election of officers. A special election would then be held to determine the new officers for the municipal corporation.

A city must select elected and appointed officials as follows: a mayor, city council (with a minimum of seven members, perhaps more), chief financial officer, community development or planning director, law director, director of public services, director of public safety, and a civil service commission.

Any public service contract previously entered into by Plain Township prior to incorporation must be renegotiated within six months after the effective date of incorporation. Any real property within the new municipal corporation owned by an existing municipality is exempt from zoning regulations of the new municipality as long as it is used for public purposes by the municipal owner.

The newly formed city must function as a statutory municipality for at least one year. If after that year the city would like to adopt a charter form of government, it will have the ability to modify the statutory municipality; however, that issue must be submitted to the municipality's electorate.

The Stark County Probate Court will be called upon to decide how best to distribute assets between the newly formed city and the remaining township. It is highly likely that the township that is left over would be subsumed and incorporated into the neighboring municipalities, either the new city, the City of Canton, or the City of North Canton. The new municipality must also decide whether or not to institute a municipal income tax, and how the provision of services is going to continue.

The Plain Township Board of Trustees recognizes that incorporation is a significant change from the current existence and operation of Plain Township. Should citizens have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact the Plain Township Administration Office at (330) 492-4689 or general@plaintownship.com.

Louis P. Giavasis Scott M. Haws Albert P Leno II

Ohio's Child Passenger Safety Laws

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children under the age of fourteen. A booster seat is designed to help a child sit higher on the vehicle seat so that the lap-shoulder belt fits correctly. Without the booster, a seatbelt can ride up on a child's belly or above the child's head, which could easily cause severe injuries in an accident. Recent updates to these laws can make a simple drive to school confusing, so here is the breakdown:

- ◆ **Every child** under the age of 4 years and less than 40 pounds must ride in a harnessed-in child car seat.
- ◆ **Every child** under the age of 8 years must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat until the child is 4'9" or taller.
- ◆ **Every child** age 8 to 15 years who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seatbelt.
- ◆ Protect your children as they ride! The backseat is the safest place for children under 13 years old.

Plain Township EMS Receives STEMI Award

On Thursday, February 18, 2010, Mercy Medical Center presented an award to three members of the Plain Township Fire and Rescue Department. The STEMI (S.T. Elevation Myocardial Infarction) Award was presented to Bill Meers, Craig Hamilton, and David Schwitzgabel. This award

was in response to an EMS chest pain call they responded to in November 2009. Their quick response and recognition played a significant role in the Door to Balloon Angioplasty time of 9 minutes and 45 seconds. This time is the fastest Door to Balloon time ever reported. This was



a collaborative effort between EMS, Emergency Department and the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

We would like to thank the residents of Plain Township for their continued support and the Township Board of Trustees for the purchase of the heart monitoring equipment. This technology will enable the Plain Township Fire Department to provide the best

pre-hospital care that is available. This cutting edge technology allows our paramedics to perform a 12 lead ECG, which assists in diagnosing a life threatening or potential life threatening myocardial infarction. Paramedics then have the capability to transmit that ECG through a web-based system to the ER and to the Cardiac Catheterization Lab before the patient is even transported to the hospital.

Once again, we would like to congratulate Bill, Craig, and David for a job well done.

Remember, time matters when a heart attack occurs, you have only a short amount of time before the heart muscle is damaged. Reducing the time it takes to receive treatment will improve your chances of survival and recovery.

Deputy Chief Donald Snyder

House Numbers Available

Being able to find your residence or business is critical to aiding safety professionals in responding to an emergency. Residents can obtain signs with a blue metal background and large reflective numbers to aid in locating addresses.

To order, send the order form and a \$15 check to:

Plain Township Paramedics,

3625 Middlebranch Avenue NE

Canton, OH 44705.

Call (330) 492-4089 with questions.

House Numbering Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Number on sign: _____

Direction of numbers on sign:

Horizontal _____

Vertical _____

Proceeds benefit the
Plain Township Fire/
Medics Association

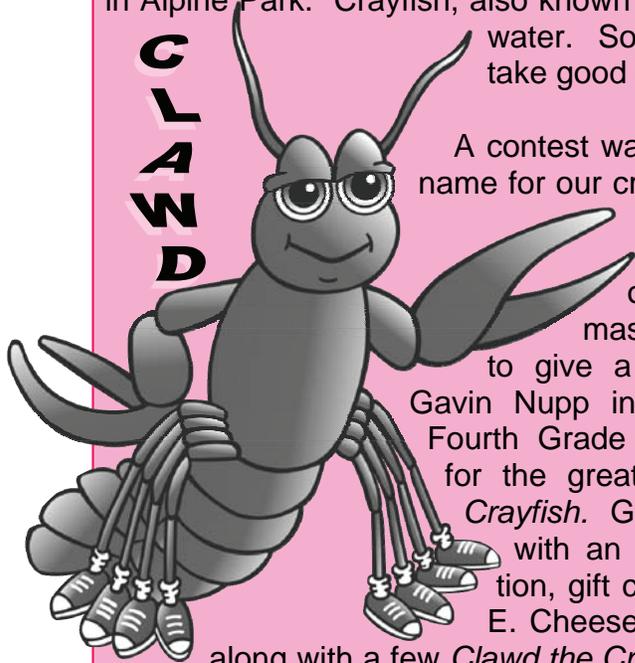
2010 Census—Count Us In!

It's hard to believe it's been ten years since the last census, but another one is taking place this year! The US Constitution mandates that the Census count every resident in the country every ten years. The data collected will help communities like ours receive federal funds for things like hospitals, schools, senior citizens, job training centers, emergency services, bridges, tunnels, and other public-works projects.

It only takes five minutes! When you receive yours, just answer the ten short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. It's that easy!

Plain Township's New Storm Water Mascot **CLAWD THE CRAYFISH**

Don't be surprised if you catch this little guy popping up around Plain Township. He is here to educate our citizens about storm water pollution and other water quality issues. Why a crayfish? Crayfish are creatures that can be found in our local waterways, such as the Nimishillen Creek in Alpine Park. Crayfish, also known as crawfish or crawdads, are unable to survive in polluted water. So to keep this little guy alive and thriving, it is important to take good care of our local waterways.



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A contest was held with Plain Local Schools to come up with the best name for our crustaceous friend. Dozens of suggestions flooded into our offices, in hopes of winning the honor of naming our new mascot. We would like to give a special thanks to Gavin Nupp in Mrs. Mongiardo's Fourth Grade class at Avondale for the great name *Clawd the Crayfish*. Gavin was presented with an award of appreciation, gift certificates to Chuck E. Cheese's and LaserQuest,

along with a few *Clawd the Crayfish* souvenirs—a special hat, necklace, and official *Clawd* toy.



2010 EARTH DAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT ON APRIL 17TH

GO GREEN WITH PLAIN TOWNSHIP

Did you know that it takes about 122,000 pieces of paper to distribute the Plain Twp. Newsletter to all of our households? That's why Plain Township is encouraging all citizens to GO GREEN and take advantage of our online newsletter and newsletter emailing list. To request the paperless version, just email us at general@plaintownship.com with your name, email address, and mailing address. Not only will this save a few trees, but it will also save tax dollars on postage, printing fees, and more! So GO GREEN with us! Visit www.plaintownship.com for more info.

This year's Earth Day Family Fun Night will be held on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at the **Diamond Park Indoor Soccer Field** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** The **first 100 children** to arrive will receive a **FREE** white pine tree sapling!

Bring the children out to participate in educational Earth Day **games and crafts** from **7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Following these activities, we will be featuring a **movie** with an earth-friendly theme at **8:00 p.m.** Families are invited to bring blankets (*no chairs please*) to the spacious indoor field to watch ***Ant Bully***, about a young boy who spends his time squishing and torturing ants—until they shrink him down to their size!

Snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase at our concessions stand.

For more information about this **FREE** fun-filled, family event, call Plain Township at **(330) 492-4689**.

With the sounds of spring knocking at our door, the Plain Township Zoning Department would like to pass along a few reminders to all township property owners—residential or commercial.

House Rentals

During the past few years, house rentals have become more popular. At this time, Plain Township does not require you to register the rental of your home. We do, however, have rules and regulations as to what type of dwelling your home may become. Depending upon your Zoning District, your house may either be rented as a single family home, a two-family home (duplex), or a three-family home (triplex). (*Licensed Family Homes do not fall into this category.*) Please be sure to contact the Plain Township Zoning Department to find out what Zoning District Classification your home is. Changing your home from a single family home to a two-family home is a Zoning violation; you must have all of the proper paperwork and permits in place before the change.



Zoning Certificate of Conformance

This is to all commercial property owners and potential tenants—a Certificate of Conformance Permit is required *prior* to anyone occupying a building in a Business, Office, or Industrial District. A new permit is required for any change in ownership, tenant, or business use. You can pick up an application at the Zoning Department.

Zoning Permits Required

Before you begin *any* construction project, your first step should be to contact the Zoning Department to discuss the minimum setbacks and maximum size requirements that apply to your property. In addition to a permit application, a site plan drawn to scale of your property is required to illustrate the new construction's size and location on the property. **PERMITS MUST BE ISSUED BEFORE THE WORK BEGINS!**

If you are hiring a contractor, the Zoning Department recommends that you discuss with your contractor who will be responsible for obtaining permits. Remember that ultimately, the property owner is responsible for compliance of his or her property with all Township zoning requirements.

Complaint Procedure

With the warmer season upon us, the Plain Township Zoning Department has been receiving numerous nuisance complaints; for the most part, due to high grass and/or weeds. The Zoning Department has the following policy regarding the filing and investigation of complaints for zoning violations or nuisance conditions which affect public health and/or safety: (ORC Section 505.87)

- ⊗ Complaints will be taken in person, in writing, or by telephone.
- ⊗ Complaints that are filed with an identifiable complainant will be immediately prioritized and dealt with in a timely manner.
- ⊗ A response will be forwarded to identifiable complainants regarding the conditions found and intended course of action following initial investigation of the complaint.
- ⊗ Anonymous complaints will be taken, but are not prioritized, and will only be investigated when all regularly scheduled work has been completed and there is additional time in the department.
- ⊗ Complaints regarding high grass and/or weeds must meet the following stipulations:
 - ⊗ Grass and/or weeds must be over eight inches tall.
 - ⊗ Grass that is eight inches or taller must cover 50% of the land or more.

Sign Permits

Almost any temporary sign requires a sign permit, so before you put out that next banner or portable sign, make sure you have obtained your sign permit. A Temporary Sign Permit is good for thirty days. You may put out a temporary sign for two months out of a six month time period. Please apply for and obtain your Temporary Sign Permit *before* placing it outside of your business. **All permanent signs require permits!** Please check with the Zoning Department for all size regulations.



You Can Prevent Drainage Problems

Please remember not to blow or rake leaves, grass clippings or any other debris into the storm sewers, ditches or streets as this not only is in violation of ORC 3767.17 but also is the source of drainage problems and flooding during heavy rain falls. Please also remember that it is illegal to dump oil, antifreeze, herbicides, pesticides or other hazardous products into ditches, culverts or catch basins. All violators will be prosecuted. If you see dumping taking place, please report it to the Stark County Health Department by calling (330) 493-9904.

Items in the Right-of-Way

Portable hoops and permanent hoops are very popular throughout the Township. Please remember that no basketball hoops or trash cans may be placed in the road right-of-way. The Trustees are asking that these hoops be moved out of the right-of-way.

Please trim back your trees, bushes, hedges, etc. that may cause a sight obstruction for drivers. The courts have determined that these may be a joint liability between the owner and the governmental agency for the hazards in the right-of-way. The Township is not responsible for trees in the right-of-way.

Spring Maintenance

The Road Crew will be sweeping all Township streets beginning the second week of March if the weather is permitting. Yard repairs from snowplow damage will begin in early April. Asphalt curb repair will be done during the summer months. *If you see a pothole on a Township road, please call the Road Department at (330) 492-3423. Potholes will be repaired as soon as we are aware of them.*

Permits Required

Road Opening Permits are required for any excavation in the Township right-of-way. A permit can be obtained by coming to the Road Garage at 6300 Heminger Avenue NE. The fee is \$50.00.

Driveway Permits are required for new construction or any improvements you make to your existing driveway. This permit gives you the guidelines for paving and apron requirements. A permit can be obtained by coming to the Road Garage. The fee is \$10.00

For more information about permits from the Plain Township Road Department, please visit us online at www.plaintownship.com.

2010 Paving List

We apologize, but the 2010 Paving List was not yet completed at the time of printing. The list will be posted on our website when it is finalized. Thank you for your patience.

2009 Year End Report

During 2009, the Road crew completed 3,650 work order requests for services such as patching, street sweeping, catch basin repairs, curb repairs, drainage, vactoring, roadside mowing, snowplowing, and deicing of township roads.

The Road Department also completed the following work:

- ⊗ Paved 11.57 miles of roads
- ⊗ Repaired and power boxed township roads using 399 tons of asphalt
- ⊗ Repaired/replaced 2,512 feet of concrete curb and gutter
- ⊗ Installed/repared 4,209 feet of asphalt curb
- ⊗ Striped 24.30 miles of center line and 40.93 miles of edge line
- ⊗ Crack sealed a total of 4.63 miles of roadway
- ⊗ Vactored 74,567 feet of ditch line
- ⊗ Flushed/cleaned 14,741 feet of pipe
- ⊗ Cleaned 165 catch basins
- ⊗ Installed, replaced or repaired 3,875 feet of culvert pipe
- ⊗ Reconstructed 440 feet of roadside ditches
- ⊗ Swept 680 curb miles of road

Easter Egg Hunt

Count your eggs—not your chickens—at Plain Township’s Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt. An egg-cellent time is promised to children up to age 12. Hop on over at noon to find your favorite hunting spots. The hunt will begin at 12:30 p.m. sharp, rain or shine. After the hunt, the Sheriff’s Department will be present to offer the Compukid Program, which provides parents with a disk of your child’s complete identity information. A free snack and beverage will be provided to each child participating in the hunt by the Plain Township Parks & Recreation Department and the Easton Street McDonald’s.

When: Saturday, April 3, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Diamond Community Park, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: FREE!



Bubble-ology

Join us for a wonderful bubble experience sure to make the entire family smile. Stories, bubbles, and paint will be combined at the Diamond Park building to make a fun summer vacation outing for the entire family. Register by calling the Plain Township Parks Department at (330) 499-0000. Brought to you by the Plain Township Parks & Recreation Department and the Plain Branch of the Stark County Library.

When: Saturday, June 26, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Diamond Community Park, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: FREE!



Tae Kwon Do

Tae Kwon Do provides great exercise and training while instilling perseverance, confidence and self-control. Students will learn the traditional martial arts techniques such as kicking, blocking, punching and self-defense. In order to enhance and develop focus, students will learn *poomse* (forms) and a board break. Those who successfully complete the class will have earned their yellow belt, which will be awarded to them in a belt graduation ceremony and demonstration, to which family and friends are invited. To register or learn more about Tae Kwon Do, please contact us at (330) 499-0000 or visit www.plaintownship.com.

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 27 through June 3, 2010

K-4th Grades from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 5th-8th Grades from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Diamond Sports Complex, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: \$85.00

Scrapping In

Do you love to scrapbook? Come join the fun at Scrapping In with other people who love to scrapbook too. Bring all of your own projects and supplies and enjoy the evening gathering ideas from other scrappers like yourself. Take advantage of use of Creative Memories tools and shape punches, the Cricut “ABC”, and just having fun! We also have pizza, chips, and soda. *YOU MUST PREPAY TO ATTEND SCRAPPING IN!* Call Mary at (330) 494-5638 or creatingwithmary@aol.com to register.

When: March 3, April 9, May 7, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Where: Diamond Community Room, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: \$14.00

Summer Tennis

Don’t forget to look for information about our QuickStart Tennis Program for kids in the 2010 Plain Township Summer Newsletter! These programs help children ages 10 and under learn to play the exciting game of tennis with ease. The sizes of the courts, equipment, and even the net height have been decreased to make learning easier for children. This year, for the first time ever, we will be offering lessons for children ages 11 through 16. The same instructors you have grown to love for the QuickStart program will be back this session. Both classes will be offered at Alpine Community Park, 3059 Alpine Street NE, Plain Township. Don’t forget to check our website www.plaintownship.com for more exciting summer programs.

Senior Programs

The Plain Township Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with Parkway AARP Chapter 5190, presents a series of seminars to bring together local senior citizens. On the fourth Thursday of each month, seniors can meet for lunch and listen to a guest speaker or enjoy entertainment at the lovely Chateau Michele, 2231 44th Street NW, Canton. Seminars are only \$10, and all senior citizens are welcome. For more information, contact Linda Carlone at **(330) 494-9645** today!

April 22, 12:00 PM - Warstler Cemetery: Then & Now - Dave Lasure

Lunch: Sauté Shrimp OR Beef-Kabob
Includes: Salad, Roll, Rice, and Dessert!

May 28, 12:00 PM - Growing Vegetables Naturally - Cindy Petitti, Petitti Garden Center

Lunch: Broccoli Cheese Quiche OR Chicken Salad Croissant
Includes: Salad, Roll, and Dessert!

June 24, 12:00 PM - Musical Entertainment

Lunch: Grilled Sirloin OR Chicken Breast
Includes: Salad, Roll, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, and Dessert!



Stampin' Up! PMS & Chocolate Nights

What is this, you might ask? Pizza, Music, Stamping, and Chocolate, of course! This open stamping night is for those who just want to get together, stamp, gather ideas, help out with projects, and have loads of fun! Just bring whatever it is you are working on: Card making, scrapbooking, whatever your creative outlet may be. You will be able to use the Stampin' Up! Big Shot die-cutting machine during the evening. Pick the date that works best for you and call Christina Taylor at (330) 494-4498 today! *YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS CLASS!*

When: March 26, April 30, May 28, June 25, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Where: Diamond Community Room, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: \$12.00

Stampin' Up! Adult/Child Stampin' Class

Looking for a fun way to spend some time with your children during spring break that *won't* break your bank account? Help your child unlock his/her creativity by joining us for an evening of stamping! Boys and girls alike will have fun with our crafty projects. Bring your own adhesive and scissors and we will provide all other supplies.

When: April 1, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Diamond Community Room, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: \$18.00

Stampin' Up! All-Occasion Stamp-A-Stack Card Workshop

Do you find yourself searching for a card at the last minute for a birthday, thank you, graduation, or just to let someone know you are thinking of them? Or do you like to have cards on hand that you can choose from when you need one? If you answered "YES" to either of those questions, then this is the class for you! You will stamp twelve cards (three each of four designs) that can be used for any of the occasions mentioned above. You will need to bring your own adhesive and scissors, the rest will be provided for you!

YOU MUST PREREGISTER TO ATTEND THIS CLASS! Call Christina Taylor at (330) 494-4498.

When: May 6, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. OR May 8, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Diamond Community Room, 2782 Diamond Street NE, Plain Township

Fee: \$18.00

Contact List

Elected Officials

Trustees (330) 492-4689
 Fiscal Officer/Finance (330) 493-1366
 County Commissioners (330) 451-7371

Fire & Rescue

Fire Administration (330) 492-4089
 Emergency Calls **911**

History

Historical Society (330) 494-6187

Parks & Recreation

Plain Township Parks (330) 499-0000
 Diamond Comm. Room (330) 492-4689
 Alpine Park Shelters (330) 492-4689

Plain Local Sports

Community Soccer Club (330) 499-2222
www.communitysoccerclub.com
 Holly Hills Baseball (330) 312-2913
www.hollyhillsbaseball.com
 Greater Stark Co. Amateur Soccer League
www.greaterstarkasl.org
 Plain Local Baseball (330) 919-2255
 Plain Local Softball (330) 478-8706
 Plain Midget Football (330) 966-2475
www.plainlocalfootball.org

Police

Stark County Sheriff (330) 430-3800

Real Estate Records

Stark County Auditor (330) 451-7334

Recycling

Solid Waste District 1-800-678-9839

Road/Storm Sewer

Stark County Roads (330) 477-6781
 Stark County Sewer (330) 451-2303
 State of Ohio Roads (330) 452-0365
 Township Roads (330) 492-3423

Schools

Canton City (330) 438-2500
 North Canton (330) 497-5600
 Plain Schools Admin. (330) 492-3500
 Plain Bus Garage (330) 492-1918

Septic Systems

Stark Co. Health Dept. (330) 493-9904

Voter Registration

Board of Elections (330) 451-8683

Water Service

Canton City Water (330) 489-3315
 North Canton Water (330) 499-4801
 Aqua Water 1-877-987-2782

Zoning Permits

Plain Township Zoning (330) 492-4686

PLAIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

2600 Easton Street NE, Canton, OH 44721

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT #277
 CANTON, OH

Administration: (330) 492-4689 **Road:** (330) 492-3423
Finance: (330) 493-1366 **Sheriff:** (330) 430-3800
Fire/Rescue: (330) 492-4089 **Zoning:** (330) 492-4686
Parks/Rec: (330) 499-0000

E-mail: general@plaintownship.com or
 visit our website for an e-mail directory
www.plaintownship.com

Leaf and Yard Waste Recycling

Unassisted yard waste drop-offs are available at three locations. Leaves, branches, brush, and other yard waste are accepted and may be loose or in paper bags. **Please, no plastic bags.**

Fire Station #4, 2855 Easton Street NE

- ☼ Reopens on March 22, 2010
- ☼ Open on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Warstler Brothers Landscaping, 4125 Salway Avenue NW

- ☼ Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- ☼ Open Saturday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rice's Nursery, 1651 55th Street NE

- ☼ Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- ☼ Open Saturday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM